

LYCAENA MIRZA PLÖTZ, 1880 (INSECTA, LEPIDOPTERA):
PROPOSED CONSERVATION BY THE SUPPRESSION OF
LYCAENA MIRZA STAUDINGER, 1874. Z.N.(S.)2426.

By Torben B. Larsen (29c Snoghoj alle, DK 2770 Kastrup, Denmark)

Christoph (1873, p. 23) proposed the name *Lycaena sieversi* for a Central Asian butterfly, which the following year was named as *Lycaena mirza* by Staudinger (1874, p. 90). Staudinger himself later recognised the synonymy (e.g. Staudinger & Rebel, 1901, p. 80), and I have been unable to trace any usage of the name this century. The species is currently placed in the genus *Vacciniina* Tutt, 1909, and is always referred to as *V. sieversi*.

2. Plötz (1880, p. 203) gave the name *Lycaena mirza* to an East African butterfly; the species is currently placed in *Azanus* Moore, [1881]. The specific name *mirza* has been universally used for this butterfly, probably on at least a thousand occasions; a list of eleven major faunistic and taxonomic works has been given to the Commission Secretariat.

3. Koçak (1980, p. 141) noticed that *mirza* Plötz is a junior primary homonym of *mirza* Staudinger, and proposed the replacement name *mirzaellus* for the African butterfly. So far as I know *mirzaellus* has not been used since.

4. Because *mirza* Plötz is in universal and widespread use, while its senior homonym *mirza* Staudinger has, as a junior synonym of *sieversi* Christoph, always been unused, an attempted introduction of the new specific name *mirzaellus* Koçak, 1980 would cause confusion and serve no purpose.

5. The suppression of *mirza* Staudinger would be a simple means of maintaining stability. I accordingly ask the International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature:

- (1) to use its plenary powers to suppress the specific name *mirza* Staudinger, 1874, as published in the binomen *Lycaena mirza*, for the purposes of the Principles of Priority and Homonymy;
- (2) to place on the Official List of Specific Names in Zoology the name *mirza* Plötz, 1880, as published in the binomen *Lycaena mirza*;
- (3) to place on the Official Index of Rejected and Invalid Specific Names in Zoology the names:
 - (a) *mirza* Staudinger, 1874, as published in the binomen *Lycaena mirza* and as suppressed in (1) above, and
 - (b) *mirzaellus* Koçak, 1980, as published in the binomen *Azanus mirzaellus*, as a junior objective synonym of *mirza* Plötz, 1880.

REFERENCES

- CHRISTOPH, H. 1873. Weiterer Beitrag zum Verzeichnisse der in Nord-Persien einheimischen Schmetterlinge. *Hor. Soc. ent. Ross.*, vol. 10, pp. 3–55.

- KOÇAK, A. O. 1980. On the nomenclature of some genus- and species-group names of Lepidoptera. *Nota lepid.*, vol. 2, pp. 139–146.
- PLÖTZ, C. 1880. Verzeichniss der vom Professor R. Buchholz in West-Africa . . . vom August 1872 bis November 1875 — gesammelten Schmetterlinge. *Stettin ent. Ztg.*, vol. 41, pp. 189–206.
- STAUDINGER, O. 1874. Einiger neue Lepidopteren des europäischen Faunengebiets. *Stettin ent. Ztg.*, vol. 35, pp. 87–98.
- & REBEL, H. 1901. *Catalog der lepidopteren des Palaearktischen Faunengebietes*. 1 Thiel: Famil. Papilionidae — Hepialidae. Friedländer, Berlin. xxx + 411 pp.